The People's Korea

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The Korean People Fete 40th Liberation Day

EDITORIAL

The entire Korean people greet the 40th anniversary of Korea's liberation with deep emotion.

The liberation of Korea from harsh Japanese colonial rule was thanks to the heroic struggle of the Korean communists who conducted the arduous anti-Japanese armed struggle under General Kim Il Sung (now the President of the DPRK) and to the struggle of patriotic Korean people.

The Korean people still remember, however, the role of the Soviet army in liberating the Korean people. They do not forget international assistance rendered by the Soviet people.

Liberation of Korea meant its political, economic and cultural liberation. It gave the Korean people a chance to establish a free, democratic and strong nation and create a new life themselves. This was a great happiness to the Koreans who had suffered from almost unbroken tragedy as a stateless people.

North Becomes Strong Socialist Country

For the past 40 years, in the northern sector of the Korean Peninsula, President Kim Il Sung has successfully led the people in the revolution and construction, turning a backward colonial state into a powerful socialist country.

Marvelous progress and prosperity achieved by the Korean people in the past 40 years are the basic guarantee for rosy prospects for the fulfilment of the long-term objectives in socialist economic construction in the 1980s. If the proposed targets are attained, the DPRK will rank among the developed countries in various domains.

All the people believe that their future will be full of promise and brighter because they are led by the respected and beloved President and the dear leader Mr. Kim Jong Il.

South Remains U.S. Colony

In contrast to the north, the southern sector of Korea presents a very different reality.

After landing on Korea in September 1945, the United States established military control over the south of the country, refusing to recognize the people's committees, Korea's nascent democratic organizations. After three-years' direct military control over the southern sector of Korea, the Americans established the so-called "Republic of Korea" headed by Syngman Rhee, a puppet of the United States. It was the policy of the Americans and their puppets who forced a separate election on south Korea in defiance of the opposition of the Korean people that made the establishment of separate regimes in the north and south of the country inevitable.

Today, south Korea still remains an American colony, and in the past 40 years it has been dominated by the military dictators whose suppressive policy has caused recurrent protests by the courageous south Korean people.

Whenever the people's struggle became so strong that a military dictator could not control the population, the United States replaced him with another dictator. When Syngman Rhee was overthrown by a student-led uprising, the Americans chose Pak Jung Hi as a new strongman. When the situation was out of his control, they replaced him with Chon Du Hwan whose cynicism surpassed his predecessor's as evidenced by the Kwangju Massacre. The Kwangju incident was brought home to the Korean people the U.S.'s role in south Korea. This is the reason why the south Korean people attack not only the Chon Du Hwan junta but the United States which recognizes the regime of Chon Du Hwan who usurped power by force as legitimate.

Reunification Means Complete Liberation

Forty years after the liberation also mean a 40-year division of the country.

A complete independence of Korea will be achieved only when Korea is reunified. Reunification is the No. 1 goal of the Korean people.

Historically, the Korean people have lived for over a thousand years on the Korean Peninsula as a homogeneous people speaking the same language. This makes the period we live in a mere parenthesis in the long Korean history. But the forty-year division has widened the differences between north and south Korea in various ways. Therefore, it is an urgent problem to achieve Korea's reunification at an early date.

The reunification of Korea is important not only to the Korean people but to other peoples of Asia and the rest of the world as the Korean Peninsula is one of the most dangerous nuclear flash points in the world. If the division continues, the danger of another war will become all the greater.

If Korea is reunified peacefully and if a reunified Korea becomes neutral, tensions in this part of Asia will be reduced.

U.S. Should Respond to Pyongyang's Seriousness

The proposals for three-way talks between the DPRK, the United States and the south Korean authorities and interparliamentary talks between Pyongyang and Seoul reflect Pyongyang's serious desire to reduce tensions and create conditions for north-south talks and eventual reunification.

At the moment, Washington refuses to have talks with Pyongyang. If the Americans want stability on the peninsula, they should sit at table with north Koreans. Pyongyang has shown seriousness and flexibility regarding negotiations with Washington and Seoul.

It is the U.S.'s turn to show good faith and flexibility. The United States should change its Korea policy and consider the Korean people's demand for national reunification.

On this significant liberation day, the Korean people renew their resolve to reunify their divided country through negotiations as early as possible for posterity and for the peace of Asia and of the world.

President Expresses Condolences On Death of Guyanese Leader

President Kim Il Sung expressed deep condolences on the death of Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, leader of the People's National Congress of Guyana and President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

In his message of condolences to Hugh Desmond Hoyte, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, on August 8 the President says that Comrade Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham was an outstanding leader of the Guyanese revolution and eminent anti-imperialist fighter of Latin America who had devoted his whole life to the freedom and liberation of the Guyanese people holding high the banner of anti-imperialist struggle from his early years.

Comrade Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, he notes, holding the slogan of self-reliance, successfully embodied the original line of building the cooperative socialism by leading the Guyanese people even amid the complicated circumstances of continued pressure and intervention from the outside forces, and devoted his all in a bid to strengthen the unity and cooperation among the Caribbean countries, expand and develop the non-aligned movement and defend peace and security of the world.

Comrade Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham was a reliable and close friend who made every effort to open up the road of friendship between the Korean and Guyanese peoples and to ceaselessly strengthen and develop the cooperative relations between the two countries as well as rendered the invariable active support and encouragement to our people in the struggle for the country's independent and peaceful reunification.

The death of Comrade Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham is a great loss not only to the Guyanese people but to the Korean people and the world people advocating independence.

Though Comrade Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham passed away, his brilliant exploits dedicated to the prosperity of Guyana and the common cause of Latin America and the world peace-loving people will remain forever.

45-Storeyed Hotel Completed in Pyongyang

The 45-storeyed Pyongyang Koryo Hotel has made its appearance in the second-stage Changgwang Street completed in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Korea's liberation.

The ceremony celebrating the completion of the hotel took place on August 9 on the spot in the presence of President Kim Il Sung.

The hotel is a modern service centre for foreigners with hundreds of rooms of different sizes, dining halls, banquet halls, conference rooms, a cinema hall, amusement rooms, stores and other service facilities on the highest level. (KCNA Radiophoto)

SR-71 Continues Spy Flight

The U.S. infiltrated a high-speed high-altitude spy plane "SR-71" deep into the sky above the territorial waters east of Kosong of the DPRK and let it fly up to the sky above the coastal waters of Sonbong County, North Hamgyong Province, from 12 hours 23 minutes to 31 minutes on August 7, reported the KCNA.

The KCNA said, "Such acts of espionage number 15 in the period following early July."

40-Year-Old Liberated Korea in Photos (1945-1985)

On August 15, 1945, General Kim Il Sung put an end to the cruel colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists over 36 years, after his 15-year-long arduous anti-Japanese armed struggle.

The whole country seethed with a blizzard of joy and excitement when the Korean people were liberated for good from Japanese imperialism.

After liberation, the Korean people moved fast to eliminate all remnants of Japanese imperialist rule in the economy and culture and to build a new country masters of the state.

But they had to wade through the sea of blood.

Especially, a 3-year-long fierce war (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953) caused by the U.S. imperialists and their stooges gave the Korean people hard ordeals. Devastating war damage exerted a serious impact on all the sphere of the people's living.

Without submitting to the repeated ordeals, the Korean people rose as one and advanced forward powerfully, however.

They established a socialist system, completed socialist industrialization and built an independent national economy and socialist national culture.

Now, the DPRK is praised by the world people as "a model country of socialism" and "a fatherland of Juche".

However, some 40,000 U.S. troops are still stationed in south Korea with nuclear weapons and means of their delivery and they obstruct Korea's reunification while interfering in its internal affairs.

Meanwhile, democratic forces including youth and students in south Korea continued to struggle for freedom and democracy of society, anti-U.S. independence and Korea's reunification.

The 40 years since Korea's liberation, is studded with shining victories. It is also 40 years of tragic national division.

At present, on the Korean Peninsula, north-south dialogues are proceeding amidst the great interest of the world.

Transfer of DPRK relief goods to south Korean flood victims last year opened the door for economic talks and for resumption of the Red Cross negotiations aimed at reuniting millions of separated families and for inter-parliamentary talks.

The first round of economic talks was held last November for the first time in 40 years of the division of the country.

The eighth round of the North-South Red Cross talks was held over May 28-29 in a hotel in Seoul.

North and south Korean Red Cross officials met in Seoul for the first time in 12 years and agreed on May 29 to hold next full-dress talks in Pyongyang on Aug. 27.

On July 23, parliamentarians from Pyongyang and Seoul met for the first time in 40 years since the division of the country.

Two sides agreed to continue their discussions at a second preparatory contact on Sep. 23.

If north-south interparliamentary talks are held successfully and publish a joint declaration of non-aggression, they will prevent a crisis of nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula and greatly contribute to maintaining the peace of Asia and the world.

At the same time, they will have an affirmative influence on north-south economic talks and the Red Cross talks and make favorable conditions for north-south high-level political talks. Moreover, they will promote realization of three-way talks with the U.S. and south Korea.

Reunifying Korea is the earnest desire of the entire Korean people and the supreme national task.

Meeting the 40th anniversary of Korea's liberation, the Korean people are approaching the door of reunification step by step by their efforts.

They will put an end to the catastrophic partition of the country in the near future.

Here are photo highlights of the 40-year-old Korea:

Liberation

On August 15, 1945, the Japanese imperialists surrendered and the Korean people were liberated.

Photo shows the Korean people filled with delight, at their land's liberation. (Aug. 15, 1945)

Fatherland Liberation War

The Korean people and the Korean People's Army gained a historic victory in the Fatherland Liberation War (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953) over the U.S. armed forces and its allied troops.

Bitter Ashes of War

The street leading to the railway station destroyed in bestial bombing raids by U.S. bombers.

Postwar Period of Rehabilitation

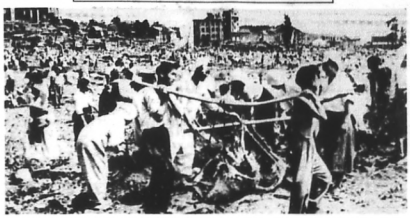
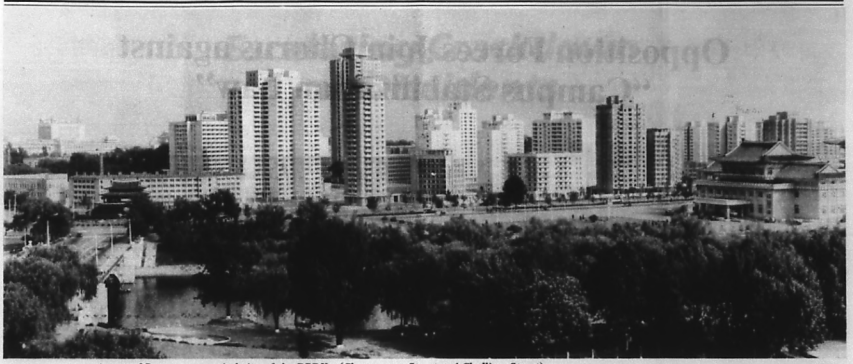


Photo shows a construction site in Pyongyang for postwar rehabilitation.

The Korean people lost nearly all their dwelling houses and household goods and badly needed food and clothing in the war which raged throughout their land. The postwar situation in Korea presented what seemed to be insuperable difficulties.

The DPRK Government worked out a Three-Year Plan for Postwar Rehabilitation and Development of the National Economy (1954-56)



A part of Pyongyang, capital city of the DPRK. (Changgwang Street and Chollima Street)
After the liberation, its nation-building work started from scratch, and now Korea developed into a prosperous socialist country.

Today

Children are growing up healthily in a well-provided environment.
Schools of all levels — from primary school to university — were set up in all parts of Korea in a short span of time after Korea's liberation.
In 1975, an 11-year universal compulsory education system was fully introduced on a nation-wide scale.

The people's average life span was lengthened by 36 years compared with that in the pre-liberation days to reach 74 years, with the living standards of the working people rose year by year, with health services improved further.
The DPRK is a tax-free country. Moreover, complete, universal free medical care is in force (enforced in 1953). Health service in Korea lays a main stress on preventive medicine.
Today the Korean people lead a happy life under the grateful socialist health service system. They say "Sixty is the prime of life and ninety is the first step to old age."

Korea's Reunification

Flood victims in Seoul's Mangwon-dong, one of the hardest hit districts in the city, on Oct. 2 receive rice sent by the DPRK Red Cross as part of its relief materials for south Korean flood victims.
The north Korean relief goods brought to south Korea for its flood victim were 50,000 sok of rice, 500,000 meters of textiles, 100,000 tons of cement and 759 cardboard boxes of medicines of 14 kinds. Transfer of DPRK relief goods opened the door later for north-south economic talks, for resumption of the Red Cross Talks and for interparliamentary talks. In this sense it was a very historical event with a great significance.

A preliminary contact for north-south interparliamentary talks was held on July 23 for the first time since the division of the country. Pyongyang hopes to discuss the question of a non-aggression declaration and other tension-reducing measures. The agenda the north Korean side proposed is aimed at removing the distrust and restoring trust within the nation, termination the long-standing confrontation in Korea and promoting national reconciliation and unity and eventually providing the preconditions and foundations for national reunification.

Opposition Forces Join Chorus against "Campus Stabilization Law"

Opposition forces in south Korea joined a chorus against the "campus stabilization law" scheduled to be enacted within August as aimed to ban student demonstrations demanding full democracy.

Kim Dae Jung, opposition leader on August 6 expressed his will to fight the fabrication of this law, saying "Even a child can see the unjustness of this law and, therefore, the opposition parties should oppose it by all means," Japanese mass-circulation daily Mainichi Shinbun reported on August 7.

"The law will never be able to achieve its aim of stabilising the campuses," so said a leading dissident Kim Yong Sam, Reuter reported on August 7.

He continued, "It will rather result in stiffer resistance from students and workers."

"Campus stabilization can be achieved only when the 'government' faithfully carried out democracy," he said.

The south Korean opposition New Korea Democratic Party and Korea National Party also stand against the authorities' plan to enact the "campus stabilisation law" as extremely "instabilizing the campus".

Li Min U, president of NKDP on August 6 denounced the law as "an outright rejection of democracy."

He said the NKDP and other anti-"government" movements would go all-out to forestall the attempt to pass the bill, expected to be introduced at a special session of parliament later this month, according to AFP report from Seoul on August 8.

The spokesman of the NKDP on August 7 issued a statement on the law.

"It is a violation of the 'constitution' to bind people by administrative measures without judicial procedures," it said.

The minor opposition KNP on the same day decided to block the ruling DJP's move to enact the law and would call for a meeting of ranking post holders on August 7 to discuss detailed strategies to deter the DJP's attempt.

Observers said that the Democratic Justice Party probably would convene an extra house session to pass the bill within August in a bid to avoid anticipated student demonstrations against the legislation after universities have opened in September from summer vacation.

Meanwhile, on August 2, more than 200 students of Sogang University in Seoul held a campus meeting and waged a demonstration, denouncing the recent suppression of the people's movement for democracy.

On the same day, over 50 students of Ewha Women's University held on the campus a ceremony for the inauguration of a committee for measures to check the crackdown of the mass movement for democracy and staged an hour long anti-"government" demonstration.

On July 31, over 200 students of Seoul National University held a meeting to repulse the suppression for democracy in south Korea and denounced the Chon junta.

They also denounced the authorities' proposed legislative measure as "suppressive".

(Note)

The proposed bill, dubbed the "campus stabilization law" provides that it prohibits any anti-"government" struggle and campus demonstration and meeting and disband any student organization at any given university.

According to the text of the bill which was made available in Seoul on August 8, the bill sets penalties of up to seven years in jail and fines of 7 million won ($8,000) for those found guilty of spreading anti-"government" ideology or false rumors, or producing, possessing or distributing illegal underground publications.

The bill also provides for up to five years in jail and 5 million won ($5,700) fines for those convicted of supplying money or other support to incite campus unrest.

Li Min U, president of NKDP (right), Kim Dae Jung (center), and Kim Yong Sam on August 8 discussed how to deal with the "government's" move to enact a suppressive "campus stabilization law".

7 More Students Charged with Violating "National Security Law"

In a continuing crackdown on anti-"government" forces, the south Korean supreme procecutor's office announced on August 6 that seven students had been arrested in connection with an allegedly "pro-communist" underground publication.

The announcement said the seven students, all from Seoul National University, were charged with violating the "national security law." The charges stem from the publication titled "Flag."

One Ewha Woman's University student was also booked and 14 other students are being sought on similar charges, the announcement said.

Miss Han Shin Ja of Ewha Women's University was reportedly booked recently and is being questioned for publishing and selling 1,500 copies of the fourth edition of an underground student newspaper, the "Ewha Press."

Meanwhile, the "Flag" was allegedly written by two of the seven student under arrest.

The "Flag" allegedly advocates the communist revolution theory held by the DPRK, among others, according to the Korea Herald on August 7.

The English-language daily quoted the "Flag" as alleging that the current "government" is a facist regime which is totally dependent on the United States and Japan and as also accusing the United States of attempting to perpetuate the division of Korea.

The student publication, the paper said, also labels "the government" as an enemy which maintains strong ties with the United States and Japan and claims that such ties should be cut once and for all for the "liberation of the masses."

The charges go that the publication incites student activists to remain the vanguard of a revolutionary struggle against the Chon junta by forming a "united war front" against it.

At the same time, the "Ewha Press", according to the charges, alleged in its June 18,,1985, issue that the basis of U.S. foreign policy is to suppress the national liberation movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The supreme prosecutor's office charged the Ewha Press with concluding that reunification of the divided nation would be impossible without the "elemination of outside influence in the country."

This photo shows two underground publications, "Flag" and "Ewha Press", which led to the arrest of seven students and placing of 14 students on a nationwide wanted list. The clandestine publications were clearly critical of the "government's" stand and the U.S. roll in south Korea. (Reprinted from the Korea Herald photo)

15 Critical School Teachers Fired

As many as 15 secondary school teachers including a principal were forced to resign for their harsh criticism on the education policies of the south Korean authorities.

The south Korean education ministry said they should be resigned no later than August 10, Seoul's newspapers reported on August 4.

This followed last month's crackdowns on students, workers and painters.

The teachers had participated in a group discussion or wrote essays for the inaugural issue of "Minjung Kyoyuk (Mass Education)", published in May last.

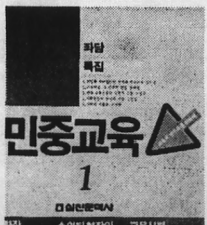
During the discussion session, a teacher, Yu Sang Dok, reportedly said that the ministry had intensified science education and English listening programs at the request of IBRD and IMF advisers, who "promote the use of cheap manpower from developing countries."

Asserting that "most Third World nations are serving the interests of international monopolistic capital", Yu further said, "nationalism is being utilized as a tool to protect the interests of certain groups."

The remarks were carried in "Minjung Kyoyuk", which led his police detention on July 23.

Kim Chin Kyong said in his article to the magazine that current school education problems could not be solved through mere revision of the education system or policy, which, if any, would be made in the interest of capitalists.

Ministry officials said that college professors or lecturers who attended the meeting or sent articles were also under questioning.



This is the cover of the inaugural issue of "Minjung Kyoyuk (Mass Education)" which cost 15 secondary school teachers their jobs as it criticized education policies of the south Korean authorities. (Reprinted from the Korea Herald photo)

Escalating Crackdown on Dissidents

Asahi Evening News, an English language daily in Tokyo, printed in its August 8 issue, a Reuter story on the south Korean authorities' recent clampdown on anti-"government" forces including students, workers, writers and painters.

The story was written by Granville Watts. Here is the article.

A government crackdown on dissent which began with radical students and dissidents, spread to workers and academics, and then writers, painters and even members of the ruling party, has now extended further.

Fifteen high school teachers said Monday (August 5) they faced punishment, possibly forced resignation, for writing articles critical of the government's education policies.

Foreign diplomats are now wondering where the purge will end, which area it will not touch.

The turning point of the new tough policy came in May when 73 radical students from several Seoul universities staged a sit-in at the U.S. Information Service (USIS) office.

Although U.S. diplomats were able to negotiate a peaceful end to the protest after four days, the students won worldwide publicity for their opposition to the government of President Chun Doo Hwan.

The two months since then have seen a heavy buildup in the government's handling of dissent, diplomats said.

Reversing an earlier policy of keeping police off the campuses, the authorities raided universities and made mass arrests.

. . .

Twenty of the students who staged the USIS sit-in are now on trial in a Seoul court, surrounded at each hearing by hundreds of riot police to prevent further demonstrations.

Another 13 students are charged under a tough national security law which carries a maximum death sentence, although prosecutors are expected to call only for jail terms of up to seven years.

Prosecutors said a student group called "Sammintu" shared the same ideas as Communist North Korea and aimed to topple the South Korean government and its democratic system.

The crackdown intensified last month when the government replaced the president of prestigious state-run Seoul National University for withstanding pressure to expel students who took part in the USIS protest.

Lee Hyong Je, who was cheered by students on his last day at the university, was replaced by hard-liner Park Bong Sik.

Government officials said they would not tolerate any anti-government activities "even at the expense of some sacrifices."

Some anti-government critics say the crackdown really began earlier this year when police raided Seoul bookshops and seized what were considered to be pro-leftist and pro-communist books.

Over-zealous police also confiscated works by philosopher Bertrand Russell and a biography of French President Francois Mitterrand. These books have now been restored to the shelves and the government admitted in Parliament that some mistakes had been made.

In the government view, however, there was no mistake about the one-week jail sentences handed out to five artists whose works were accused of being "agitative" against the government.

The court also confiscated 19 paintings and graphics by the artists, all in their 20s, after ruling that they distorted facts and spread false rumors.

The five were among 19 painters detained by police at a Seoul gallery. They others were later released.

The works mainly depicted the lives of low-wage factory workers and bore such titles as "Arrested Workers," "Our Father Lives in the Factory All Day Long," and "Strike at Daewoo Apparel Company."

Strikes are virtually banned in South Korea, but about 100 workers from the Daewoo textile company staged a week-long sit-in in June demanding the abolition of laws restricting trade union activities.

In protest at the seizing of paintings, 95 artists said in a statement: "The recent detention of artists and the confiscation of their works violate the Constitution which guarantees artistic creativeness and freedom of expression."

This was followed by a manifesto issued by 401 writers and poets calling for the protection of artistic freedom.

The government says that some students, workers and artists have abused freedoms and that some radicals have gone beyond ordinary criticism and indulged in anti-state activities.

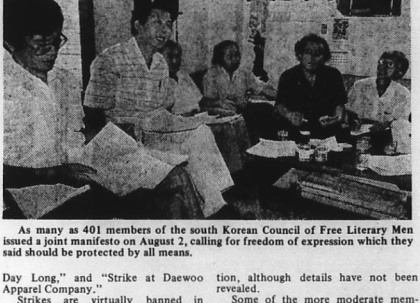
In order to curb increasing campus violence, the government has said it proposes to introduce tough new legislation, although details have not been revealed.

Some of the more moderate members of Chun's own ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) criticized the proposed new law and two of them were replaced in office last week.

The government insists that it must take a firm hand to control the situation in advance of major international events to be held in Seoul, including the International Monetary Fund annual meeting in October, the Asian Games in 1986 and the Olympics in 1988.

But leading dissident Kim Dae Jung, who was placed under three days of house arrest last week to prevent him attending an opposition party convention, says the government is on a dangerous confrontation course.

"Far from stifling the struggle for democracy, the government's harsh measures will stimulate anti-government activities," he said.



As many as 401 members of the south Korean Council of Free Literary Men issued a joint manifesto on August 2, calling for freedom of expression which they said should be protected by all means.

Rev. Moon Ik Hwan Under House Arrest

A leading south Korean human rights campaigner, Rev. Moon Ik Hwan, was placed under house arrest on August 8 for denouncing a proposed "campus stabilization law" aimed to ban student demonstrations demanding full democracy.

2 Students Arrested in Connection with Sammintu

The Seoul Kwanak police on August 7 arrested two Seoul National University students on the wanted list in connection with Sammintu.

They were Kim Yon Hyong, co-president of the Seoul National University Sammintu, and Kang Yong Gun, vice-president of the university council.

Meanwhile, the police have arrested Lee Chang Gyu, president of the Seoul National University Minmintan on July 31 on charges of "engineering" anti-"government" demonstration to protest the legislation of the "campus stabilization law."

Minmintan is a student body committed to the struggle against the Chon Junta's suppression of democratization movements.

Sankei Allegations of N. Korean Strike Plan

In an apparent move to discredit Pyongyang in north-south dialogue, Japan's ultra-conservative daily Sankei Shimbun on August 8 frontpaged a story alleging a north Korean plan to strike south Korea in case of an American involvement in any regional crisis.

The Sankei story was based on what the rightist-leaning paper termed "information provided by certain U.S. sources" and referred to the establishment of "the Military Committee for Invasion" of south Korea.

Such allegation is far from new. Such allegations are made whenever north-south dialogue shows a sign of success, to judge from the past practice of the American, Japanese and south Korean authorities.

The allegations are: 1) the north will begin to invade the south as soon as the U.S. is involved in a regional dispute (such as in the Persian Gulf or Europe), 2) a "military planning committee" was established for its preparations, 3) the U.S. learned the existence of the committee in 1982, 4) it is indispensible, so as to guarantee peace on the Korean Peninsula, to defuse the crises in the whole world including Europe and the Persian Gulf as well as to stabilize south Korea and so on.

The article is described as news from certain American official quarters, skilfully avoiding direct responsibility. This is one of the stereotyped measures of that conservative paper.

The DPRK Government has made clear on every oppotunity that it has no intension to strike the south. For instance, in an interview with the managing editor of the Japanese politico-theoretical magazine Sekai held on June 9, President Kim Il Sung stated, "We neither intend to 'invade the south' nor are we capable of doing so." (See the People's Korea dated on July 27, 1985)

The article attempts to verify the plan of "southward invasion" by saying "In 1982, the U.S. recognized the establishment of the military committee with the north Korean President as its responsible person."

The committee referred in the article, however, is the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, totally dedicated to the defense of the country, which was already made public at the Sixth Congress of The WPK in October 1980. The article distortedly described the character of the commission as scheming "southward invasion" and being ready for action. This is nothing other than a revelation of ignorance of that newspaper.

Moreover, it also alleged that when the American troops interven in other regional disputes, the north Korean forces would move southward.

Yet, the fact is very contrary. A Pentagon document, "Fiscal 1984-1988 Defense Guidance", leaked to the mass media in January 1983, demands that when the Soviet troops make a thrust into the Persian Gulf or Europe, the American forces, 16 days later then, begin to strike back by hitting the DPRK and other areas. The document envisages American action in areas far away from the target of a Russian attack.

In other words, in case of the outbreak of U.S.-Soviet war, the American soldiers will invade the northern half of the Korean Peninsula.

According to this operational scenario, the U.S. and south Korea, involving 200,000 strong, has staged "Team Spirit" joint military rehearsals lasting one or two months every year.

Like this, the article on the right-leaning paper, labeling the DPRK as "belligerent", distorted the reality and threw a wet blanket over north-south dialogues now under way.

Sankei Shimbun, on last July 28, also made another false report, saying "the north Korean military personnel were sent to Angola and directing its military training and strategy."

Rodong Sinmun, the organ of the WPK, wasted no time in rebutting the allegation in an article dated on July 30.

The Sankei paper is known as one of the notorious anti-communism and anti-DPRK papers in Japan. Its recent moves coincide with the remarks of Ronald Reagan which groundlessly characterized as "terorrists" five nations including the DPRK.

DPRK Jugglers Make Good Results at 20th Int'l Modern Juggler Festival

Mr. Kim Taek Son who was awarded the prize of "Twice World Juggler King" at the 20th International Modern Juggler Festival (A photo shows his May, 1980 Japanese tour.)

Kim Gwang Chol, the second son of Kim Taek Song, People's Artiste of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was awarded grand prize, the highest prize of the 20th International Modern Jugglery Festival, and a trophy cup at the festival which was held at Karilovy Vary of Czechoslovakia over July 18 and 20.

Kim Taek Song himself was awarded the title of "twice world jugglery king" and Chong Ae Sim "twice jugglery queen."

Kim Chol, Kim Taek Song's first son, came first in the imaginary jugglery.

The festival organising committee again awarded this time the title of "world jugglery king", the "crown of king" and the certificate to People's Artiste Kim Taek Song who came first five times and won the highest prize of the festival three times over the past 15 years to make a great contribution to the International Jugglery Festival.

The organizing committee awarded again the title of "jugglery queen", royal crown and certificate to DPRK Merited Actress Chong Ae Sim who won the title of "jugglery queen" at the festival in July 1981.

Thus they have become best among the world jugglers, to win the title of "twice world jugglery king" and "twice jugglery queen" rare to be seen in the world circus history.

(Continued from the previous issue)

NEWS DISPATCH FROM PYONGYANG

DPRK Dels. to Foreign Countries (June 19-29)

Jun. 19

* A delegation of the Korean Journalists Union headed by Choe Gwan Hong, Vice Chairman of its central committee, for a visit to the Soviet Union.
* A delegation of the Korean People's Army Journalists headed by Kim Dok Hyon, Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper Choson Inmingun, for a visit to the Soviet Union and Hungary.

Jun. 22

* A DPRK defence sports delegation headed by Pak Myong Chol, Vice Chairman of the Korean Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Committee to attend a meeting of the Chairmen of the Defence Sports Organisations of Socialist Countries scheduled in the Soviet Union.
* A DPRK sports delegation headed by Li Chang Son, Vice Chairman of the committee for a visit to Czechoslovakia.

Jun. 24

* A delegation of the Korean Musicians' Union headed by Kim Won Gyun, Vice Chairman of its central committee to visit China.

Jun. 25

* A delegation of the North Pyongan Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Ko Yong Son, Secretary of the North Pyongan Provincial Committee of the WPK, for a visit to Liaoning Province, China.
* A delegation of the Korean Christians Federation headed by Li Chon, Vice Chairman of its central committee for a visit to Czechoslovakia.

Jun. 26

* A delegation of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society headed by Kim Chi Hu, Vice Minister of General Education and Vice Chairman of the central committee of the society for a visit to the Soviet Union.
* A DPRK scientific and technological cooperation delegation headed by Kim Ung Ho, Vice Chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology for a visit to Hungary.
* A delegation of the DPRK UNESCO National Committee for a visit to the Soviet Union.

Jun. 27

* A delegation of the South Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by its Chief Secretary Paek Bom Su for a visit to Shandong Province, China.

Jun. 29

* A delegation of the DPRK Academy of Sciences headed by its Vice President Chu Sung Sop for a visit to Italy.

Agreements, Accords between the DPRK and Foreign Countries (Jun. 1-29)

Jun. 1

* An agreement on the mutual delivery of commodities and payments for 1986-1990 was signed in Pyongyang between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Bulgarian People's Republic.

Jun. 3

* An agreement on economic, scientific-technological and cultural cooperation between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Cameroon was signed in Pyongyang.

Jun. 9

* An agreement on cooperation between the Workers' Party of Korea and Syrian Arab Socialist Baath Party for 1985-1986 was signed in Pyongyang.

Jun. 10

* A protocol on mutual commodity delivery and payments for 1985 between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was signed in Pyongyang.
* A 1985-1986 plan for cooperation between the Korean Writers Union and the Soviet Writers Union was signed in Pyongyang.

Jun. 11

* A protocol of the 25th meeting of the Inter-Governmental Scientific and Technological Cooperation Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China was signed in Beijing.
* Shipping agreement was signed in Dhaka between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Jun. 16

* An agreement of the 24th meeting of the Korea-China Committee for Cooperation in Border River Shipping was signed in Sinuiju.

Jun. 17

* An agreement of cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Cooperative Republic of Guyana was signed in Pyongyang.

Jun. 24

* A 1985-1986 plan for cultural exchange between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United Repulbic of Tanzania was signed in Pyongyang.

Jun. 26

* An agreement on cooperation in radio and TV broadcasting between the DPRK Radio and Television Broadcasting Committee and the Cuban Radio and Television Institute was signed in Pyongyang.

Jun. 29

* An agreement on forming relations of friendly provinces between the South Hwanghae Province of Korea and Shandong Province of China was signed in Jinan.

Foreign Dels. to Pyongyang (July 1-30)

July 1

* A delegation of the Soviet preparatory committee of the 12th World Youth and Students Festival headed by Victor Petrakov.
* A delegation for the study of the Juche idea of the Nigerian, Oyo State, Union of Teachers headed by M.A. Adedotun, President of the union.
* Andre Naarden, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Foregin Affairs of Surinam.

July 2

* A delegation of the Hiroshima Prefectural Headquarters of the Japan Socialist Party headed by Hamamoto Manao, Executive Chairman of the headquarters and member of the House of Councillors.

July 5

* A delegation of parliamentarians from the Belgian Socialist Party (P.S.) headed by Willy Burgeon, member of the bureau of the party and deputy.
* A delegation of the Left Party-Communists of Sweden headed by its General Secretary Kenneth Kvist.
* A delegation of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Chain headed by its deputy head Zhu Liang.
* A delegation of parliamentarians from Venezuelan political parties headed by Felix Eloy Torres, First Vice President of the Venezuelan Movement to Socialism and member of parliament.
* A delegation of the Cuban Association for Friendship among People's headed by its First Vice Chairman Mario Rodriguez Martinez.
* A delegation of the International Air Transport Association headed by its Advisor Knut Hammarskjold.
* Abdul-Wakil Gailan Ahmed, Director of a department of the Planning Ministry of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and his party.
* A Carabobo University delegation of Venezuela for the study of the Juche idea headed by its Assistant General Secretary Angel Fermin Beaudeau.
* An Aden University delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen headed by its Vice Rector Mohamed Abdul Majid.
* A delegation of the Austrian Juche idea study group headed by Hans Schinko, Chief of the group for the study of the Juche idea of President Kim Il Sung in Vienna.
* A delegation of the Ondo State, Nigeria, Union of Teachers for the Study of the Juche idea headed by its Chairman Z.O. Ikudayisi.
* David Barkin, Professor of the Metropolitan Autonomous University of Mexico.
* K. Post, Professor of the Institute of Social Studies of Hague, Holland.
* A Costa Rican delegation for the study of the Juche idea headed by Professor of Costa Rica University Kemly Jimenez.
* A Venezuelan delegation for the study of the Juche idea headed by Professor of Los Andes University Leonel Vivas.
* A delegation of Cuenca University, Ecuador, for the study of the Juche idea headed by Professor of the university Efren Paredes Roldan.
* Sami Kohen, Senior Editor of the Turkish paper Milliyet.

(Continued on P7)

Sports and Culture

FILMS

The Korean Documentary Film studio has of late released the documentary films **"In Unyielding Revolutionary Spirit"**, **"The 30th Anniversary of the Formation of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun) Celebrated in the Homeland"** and **"Four Seasons of Korea"**.

The documentary film **"In Unyielding Revolutionary Spirit"** shows the proud features of the Korean working class which is vigorously accelerating the march of the 1980s in the unbreakable revolutionary spirit with which it crossed the river in flame and forced its way through marches, following the party, only trusting President Kim Il Sung.

It shows the workers of the Ryongsong Machine Complex, one of the nation's production bases of ordered equipment., hastening the production of a 10,000 ton press with the boldness with which they manufactured an 8-metre turning lathe and 3,000 and 6,000 ton presses by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle and workers of the Rakwon Machine Plant building large oxygen separators earlier than schedule.

The film depicts the endeavours of party workers to build medium and small scale hydraulic power stations everywhere and turn the counties into places good to live in and indomitable traits of tideland reclaimers and shaft builders.

"The 30th Anniversary of the Formation of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun) Celebrated in the Homeland" presents impressive scenes of President Kim Il Sung receiving the members of the group of Koreans in Japan headed by Han Dok Su, Chairman of the Chongryun Central Standing Committee, visiting the homeland to express thanks on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the formation of Chongryun, and the members of other homevisiting groups of chongryun and showing warm care for them, scenes of attendance of those members at various functions held in the homeland in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the formation of chongryun and their visits to various places and rest.

"Four Seasons of Korea" shows the scenery of beautiful Korea, places of superb view in particular, in all seasons.

– Article of South Korean Monthly Magazine –

No Policy for Preservation Of National Assets

5 *Preservation of Measures Depends on Volunteers*

(Continued from the No. 1,249 issue of The People's Korea)

Located in a forlorn place, the Sang Bong temple has a national treasure and a treasure within its precinct.

They are National Treasure No. 57 "Chol Kam Son Sa Pagoda and a pagoda stone Treasure No. 170. The pagoda and the pagoda stone stand in pine forests 300 meters away from the original site of Tae Ung Jon (main hall of the temple to preserve Buddhist images).

The pagoda (Treasure No. 57) known as the burial pagoda of the Rev. Chol Gam is the most remarkable of the octagon-shaped Silla dagobas, and is evaluated as an important work representing the stone works of those days.

So sophisticated are reliefs such as cloud patterns on the lower step of the bottom stone stage and those of lions on the upper step, and lotus flower patterns on the upper stone stage, the pattern of a commanding God on the central support.

They are so realistic and vividly carved. But these fine and precious treasures are heavily damaged. The entire stone work is split from the base to the central support; there are scars on a roof stones; the roof stone and the central support were apparently moved by thieves.

National Treasure No. 10, a 3-storied stone pagoda of Shil Sang Temple of Paek Chang Am, North Cholla Province came to attract public attention in Feb. 2, 1980 when it collapsed as a result of thievery.

Like the pagoda of Sang Bong Temple, the 3-storied stone pagoda has been left in a forlorn place, weather-beaten and uncared for.

The only difference is that the former has been repeatedly attacked by thieves, and it has no more treasures there which attract thieves.

Old tumulus No. 3, Sok Chon Dong in the early Paekje period, was divided into two in the name of "land development".

No Budget for Preservation of National Treasures

Further, cultural assets left in ruined temples are also a problem. In the compound of Ko Dal Temple in Kyongju Province, there are such excellent national treasures as the Ko Dal Sa Pagoda Treasure No. 4, turtle-shaped stone of the Rev. Wonjong Stone Pagoda Treasure No. 6, and Treasures, Nos. 7 and 8, but no one take care of them.

The Ko Dal Temple dagoba, National Treasure No. 4 was built about 1,000 years ago.

It is well-known for its sophisticated sculptural technique, and clearly shows the form of the Koguryo era (913-1,392) while preserving the basic style of a Silla dagoba. But this dagoba lacks some parts in the central support and roof stones, and the deep cracks in the rear of the body are filled with cement.

When I (writer) went to Ko Dal Village, I met with the village headman, An Nan Hi, who was working on his farm.

Asked about the preservation of the cultural assets, he said, "We had been paid about $21 a month out of the government budget until 3 years ago, so we could pay a nominal sum to villagers when they took part in cleaning the historical spots or fixing the road. But we haven't been able to get even a cent from the government since 1983. So today it is I and not the government that spend money for the purpose. I often ask for some measures by the local government, yet I get no answer from them. I really don't know what to do".

Historical Spots

Then what is happening on tumuluses or historical spots? "Destruction or damage" in the name of land development is a serious problem today.

There are many tumuluses in the area of Pan Nam-myon, Ra Ju-gun, South-Cholla Province dating back to the period of the three kingdoms and Paekje era (BC 18-660), and there became spotlighted as important relics showing ancient Korea-Japan relation.

Many scholars from both south Korea and Japan often visit the spot, and do research work there every year. But these important historical spots have been frequently attacked by thieves and the remaining parts are also destroyed or damaged in the name of land "development" because of lack of proper administrative measures. Do we have any policy on the preservation of cultural assets?

According to a public announcement, there are total of 31 tumuluses in the area of Tae An, Shin Chon, Tok San in Pan Nam-myon.

Seventeen of these tumuluses have disappeared already as a result of attack by thieves and "development" projects. At present, only 14 tumuluses remain.

(To be continued)

(Continued from P 6)

July 8

* A delegation of the Soviet magazine Ogonyok.

July 10

* A delegation of the Japan Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification headed by Iwai Akira, Chairman of the Japan Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea.

* A delegation of the Japan society for the study of the Juche idea headed by Kimura Tsuyoshi, Director of the National Council of Japan Societies for the Study of the Works of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Niigata Prefectural Union of High School Teachers.

July 12

* Stefan Andrei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Romanian Socialist Republic, and his party.

* A delegation for the study of the Juche idea of the Malagasy Vanguard of Revolution headed by Rebezanrina Reveloarimefy, member of the Political Bureau of the Malagasy Vanguard of Revolution.

* A government delegation of the Republic of Niger headed by Illa Maikasoua, Minister of Higher Education and Research.

* A delegation of University of Guayaquil, Ecuador, for the study of the Juche idea headed by Victor Hugo Ludena Rubin, Vice Rector of the administration of the university.

* A delegation of the University of Bangui, Central Africa, for the study of the Juche idea headed by Jean-Paul Ngoupande, Director of a faculty and Professor of the university.

* Prof. Georges Labica, Director of the Philosophical Institute of Paris University No. 10.

* A delegation of the National Railway Workers' Union of Japan headed by Sakai Masaji, Vice President of the Central Executive Committee of the union.

* A delegation of Engesco Company of Brazil headed by Danilo Zerwes, its director.

* A Sri Lanka delegation for the study of the Juche idea headed by C.F.W. Goonaratna, Professor of the University of Galle in Sri Lanka.

* A delegation of Indian scholars for the study of the Juche idea headed by D.L. Sethi.

July 15

* A delegation of political parties of Colombia headed by Pablo Ruben Bernasa, member of the National Direction of the Conservative Party of Colombia and Senator.

* A delegation of the French Communist Party headed by Maxime Gremetz, member of the Political Bureau, and Secretary, of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party.

July 16

* A delegation of the Yamanashi Prefectural Japan, People's Council headed by Akiyama Atsushi, Vice Chairman of the Special Committee for Measures on Korean Affairs of the Japan Socialist Party and member of the House of Councilors.

July 18

* A light industrial delegation of China headed by Yang Bo, Minister of Light Industry of the People's Republic of China.

* A RSSR soccer selection of the Soviet Union.

July 19

* A friendship visiting group of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of National Defence of China headed by its director Chang Tong.

* A Kyoto scholars delegation of Japan headed by Mizutani Kosho, Rector of the Japanese Buddhism College.

* Zayani Ezzeddine, Councillor of the Ministry of Culture of Tunisia.

* Hassan Fouad, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Egyptian paper Al Ahram.

* Pekka Sutela, Associate Professor of Helsinki University, Finland.

* An Indian delegation for the study of the Juche idea headed by Anil Kumar Sarkar, Professor of Calcutta University, India.

July 21

* A Beijing municipal friendship delegation headed by its Vice Mayor Feng Mingwei.

July 22

* A technicians delegation of the German Democratic Republic.

* A delegation of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Zambia headed by Minister F.M. Chomba.

* A delegation of the Bulgarian Science and Technology Federation.

* A Greek delegation for the study of the Juche idea headed by Evangelos Macheras, ex-President of the Greek Association of Lawyers and Vice-President of the Greek Committee for Peace.

July 23

* Hussein Abdul Khalek Al Jalal, new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Yemen Arab Republic to Korea.

* A delegation of women activists of the Japan Socialist Party headed by Kaneko Mitsu, socialist member of the House of Representatives and Chairman of the Committee for Measures on Women's Affairs of the JSP.

* A delegation of the Japanese teachers society for the study of the Juche idea headed by Hitomi Shoichi, General Secretary of the Miyagi, Japan, Prefectural Teachers Union.

July 25

* A delegation of Jahangirnagar University of Bangladesh headed by its Vice Chancellor A.F.M. Kamaluddin.

July 26

* A delegation of British Labor members of Parliament headed by Robert Parray.

* A delegation of Tunis University of Tunisia headed by the Dean of a faculty Abdelmajid Charfi.

July 27

* A Japanese agronomist delegation headed by Okura Takegazu, Chairman of the Government Tax Survey Society and Chief Director of the Study Centre of the Food and Agricultural Policy.

July 29

* A delegation of the World Federation of Trade Unions headed by its General Secretary Ibrahim Zakaria.

* A delegation of the Czechoslovak Union of Architects headed by Pavel Zibrin, First Vice Chairman of its central committee.

* A Greek delegation for the study of the Juche idea headed by Michael Peristerakis, vice-president of the International Peace Bureau in Geneva.

* A delegation of Paris University No. 8 headed by its President Claud Friou.

* Pierre Boudot, Professor of Paris University No. 1.

* A delegation of University of Niamey of Niger headed by its professor Hamani Djibo.

* Dmitri Nikiforov, Director of a department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

July 30

* A delegation of the Heilongjiang Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China headed by Li Lian, member of the Central Committee of the CPC and Secretary of the Heilongjiang Provincial Committee of the party.

* A Thai youth delegation headed by Kramol Thongdhammachart, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Vice President of the Ional Youth Commission of the Kingdom of Thailand.

* A delegation of the Japan Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification headed by Wakabayashi Hiroshi, General Secretary of the Japan Committee for Supporting Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea.

* A delegation of secretaries of socialist dietmen of Japan headed by Tanaka Etsuko, Chairman of the Group of Secretaries of Socialist Members of the House of Representatives.

* A government trade delegation of Egypt headed by Mohamed Sultan Abou Ali, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade.

(To be continued)

Report on the Human Rights in the "Republic of Korea" (11)

(Continued from the No. 1248 issue of The People's Korea)

As the presidential election approached in February 1981, there was no doubt that Chun Doo Hwan would be elected under the new Constitution of the Fifth Republic. In addition to having control of the military and the Military Security Command he had already become interim president with the extensive powers given that office by the Yushin Constitution. These were strong advantages for a candidate, especially for a candidate whose only credible opponents were banned from participating in politics.

During the 1979-80 interregnum the desire to have a directly, popularly elected president was widely expressed. However, under the new constitution and

> the 1980 Presidential Election Law, the President is chosen by an electoral college of about 5,000 members. By law, presidential campaigns are brief and candidates restricted in campaigning, including both the amount they may spend and the methods they may use to appeal to the voters. In the 1981 presidential election these restrictions, together with the authorities' careful screening of the electoral college candidates . . . – [see note on ellipsis] resulted in the virtual absence of effective opposition to incumbent President Chun Doo Whan, who won by a nearly unanimous electoral vote.

The degree of power in the hands of the President, the banning of strong political figures and the weakness of the political parties have rendered all but meaningless the National Assembly, which had already been seriously weakened by the Yushin system. The United States State Department has characterized the National Assembly as follows:

> The National Assembly, although politically weak, is important as a forum for the expression of divergent views on the Government's programs. Legislation normally originates with the executive branch, although the Assembly has at time [sic] passed or blocked laws contrary to the President's wishes. Members of the Assembly, who serve a four-year term are Korea's only directly-elected public officials. The elections laws passed in 1981 provided for proportional representation system that reserves 92 of the Assembly's 276 seats [exactly one-third] for members appointed by the parties, with two-thirds of those seats awarded to the party which gains a plurality of the popular vote. In the Assembly elections of March 1981, the authorities brought various forms of pressure to bear to discourage some potential candidates but did not interfere with the voting. Of the 184 Assembly seats to be filled by election, the Government party ran candidates for 92, of which it won 90, along with a 38 percent plurality of the popular vote. The government party was accordingly awarded 61 proportional seats giving it a comfortable majority [of 151 of 276 or 54.7 percent] . . . . [emphasis added].

Critics of the Republic of Korea government may feel that this overrates the importance of the National Assembly but it does clearly show that the United States government, at some level, realizes how weak the National Assembly is. It must be noted that, since President Chun heads the ruling Democratic Justice Party, which has 54.7 percent of the Assembly votes, and obviously has a good deal of influence over the 25 members belonging to the Korean National Party, it strains credulity to believe that the National Assembly has passed or blocked much legislation contrary to the heartfelt wishes of the President.

The lengths to which the government will go to silence criticism even in this tamed National Assembly was demonstrated clearly by the fate of Representative Han Young Soo who was outspokenly critical of the government in the Assembly in May of 1982 and during a visit to the United States at the invitation of the International Communications Agency the following month. Immediately upon his return to Seoul, Representative Han was arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to two years. The charges were adultery "which observers agreed were a political reprisal."

Under such political circumstances a citizen who seeks redress for violation of his constitutional or legal rights can hardly expect strong political support from any existing political group or aspire to build a political base of his own.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The South Korean government has placed itself on record as being in favor of democracy and pluralism. It accepts international human rights standards such as those in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that contain the essentials of a free society. These standards include: respect for the integrity of the individual; respect for the right to freedom of speech, press, assembly and organization; and the right to participate in a meaningful electoral process.

The aim of the recommendations that follow is to suggest specific steps that the South Korean government should take to establish a stable and the more democratic, tolerant and pluralist society to which it evidently aspires. Some of the steps we suggest should be taken immediately. Others involve institutional change and require a careful, fundamental re-examination of current law and practice.

We recommend the following:

I. Human Rights Instruments

The South Korean government has ratified several human rights instruments. However, it has not yet ratified the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the most basic of the human rights instruments. The Republic of South Korea should:

1. ratify the human rights instruments to which it is not yet party;

2. adhere to the obligations it has undertaken with respect to the instruments it has ratified; and

3. publicize the reports on its compliance with the standards set forth in the human rights instruments and encourage broad public discussion of the reports.

II. The Press

A free press is at the heart of an open and pluralist society. Media restrictions currently in place in South Korea inhibit genuine debate and the free flow of ideas and information. Improvements made by the government during 1984 do not significantly relax the firm grasp the government has on the nation's media. In particular, the government of the Republic of Korea should:

1. Immediately end the harassment and intimidation of journalists and other members of the media;

2. Without further delay, lift the bans imposed during both the Park and Chun regimes, which prohibit hundreds of journalists from publishing, and encourage publishers to rehire such individuals;

3. End the circulation of censorship guidelines which effectively regulate the appearance of specific issues in the media;

4. Repeal the Basic Press Act of 1980, with a view to replacing it with only those limitations which comport with international human rights law;

5. Abolish its current practices of licensing publishers, requiring minimum facility standards for publishers, which effectively prevent small publishers from operating, and imposing eligibility requirements for journalists and publishers;

6. Dismantle the several levels of oversight committees established by the government in the Press Act to regulate the content of broadcasting;

7. Relinquish its direct control over broadcasting and news services and return such businesses to the private sector; and

8. De-criminalize the act of communicating with the foreign press in all cases except when the communication concerns matters relating to the security of the state and other narrow exceptions permitted under international law.

III. Labor Rights

Serious obstacles are placed by South Korean law on the rights of labor unions to organize, to bargain collectively and to take industrial action. The Labor Union Act restricts the formation of unions and union activity. It grants broad powers to the administrative authorities to dissolve unions "likely to become detrimental to the public interest." Officers of dissolved unions are not eligible to be officers of any other union until three years have elapsed from the order of dissolution. Political activity by labor unions, such as supporting election candidates, is forbidden. Provisions of the Labor Disputes Mediation Act, the Labor-Management Council Act and Temporary and Special Act Concerning Labor Unions and Mediation of Labor Disputes in Foreign Invested Enterprises place further serious obstacles on the rights to bargain collectively and to engage in industrial action.

The government of the Republic of South Korea should:

1. Become a member of the International Labor Organization;

2. Undertake a comprehensive review of its labor legislation in the light of ILO Conventions 87 and 98 concerning respectively Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize, and Application of the Principles of the Right to Organize and to Bargain Collectively; and

3. Adhere to the ILO's customary law concerning the right to strike and the guarantee of basic civil liberties to trade unionists.

IV. Personal Liberties

Despite considerable progress in eliminating blatant human rights abuses, the South Korean government continues to discourage the free exchange of ideas among its citizens. This purpose is accomplished through several mechanism, including: the "greening" of university students; the arbitrary arrests and detentions of politician activists; the arbitrary extension of prison sentences; the harassment of night schools and meetings organized by students; and the harassment of human rights defenders. In particular, the Government of South Korea should:

1. eliminate the practice of removing the military exemptions of politically active students;

2. permit an independent inquiry into the suspicious deaths of five former students who died while in military service;

3. investigate charges of police brutality in dealing with meetings of university students and issue the necessary orders to ensure that police misconduct not occur;

4. permit the night schools to operate without subjecting teachers to harassment;

5. eliminate the practice of extending prison sentences based on an individual's alleged failure to reform;

6. continue the practice of permitting the reinstatement of university students, but eliminate the conditions placed on students seeking reinstatement;

7. remove government agents from university campuses; and

8. permit domestic groups to monitor human rights abuses without being subject to harassment.

V. Elections and the Political System

Under the current political system in South Korea, members of the National Assembly are the only directly elected officials in the country. However, the powers of the National Assembly are circumscribed and the electoral system provides a tremendous advantage to the governing party. In addition, several leading politicians are proscribed from political activity and there are severe restrictions placed on campaigning by political parties. Thus, notwithstanding several electoral reforms and the formation of a new party, the February 12, 1985 National Assembly election does not permit meaningful political participation by the South Korean people in their government.

To rectify the institutional defects and ensure greater political participation, the South Korean government should:

1. Permit the National Assembly to exercise greater authority in the legislative sphere and to become a body where open criticism of the government is tolerated and encouraged;

2. Reform the system of allocation of the national seats to provide for a proportional representational system based either on total votes received by a party or on total constituency seats received;

3. Act expeditiously in implementing plans to provide for locally elected governments;

4. Permit direct presidential elections or, at the very least, reform the present electoral college system to provide all parties a fair chance to compete for the presidency;

5. Lift all bans on proscribed politicians;

6. Permit parties and candidates to organize their own political rallies, to prepare their own political advertisements, to engage in house-to-house canvassing and to have access to state-owned or state-controlled media in order to provide an opportunity to educate voters regarding the candidates and issues;

7. Permit all parties greater involvement in the administration of the electoral process, including access to polling and counting sites throughout the country, to better ensure a fraud-free electoral process; and

8. Increase efforts to eliminate unfair electoral practices, including vote-buying and voter intimidation.

(Concluded)

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